

B"H

2007
Course Events

MERKOSWOMEN



Bringing heaven
one step closer to earth ...

MERKOSWOMEN
A Light in Jewish Education

Merkos Women offers University accredited courses in Jewish Studies to young females seeking to discover the true richness and relevance of their Jewish heritage.

Merkos courses encourage students to look below the surface of well known events, Torah personalities and Jewish symbolism to discover fresh insights to their contemporary lives.

About Merkos Women

Merkos Women has designed a year long program to provide quality Torah education to women from diverse backgrounds.

At Merkos Women we recognise that women are required to function on a more sophisticated level than ever before, with higher knowledge. Many women find that a solid Torah education strengthens their personal identity and places them in a better position to influence their families and wider environment.

Our ethos is to provide a safe, comfortable and sincere environment in which women can appreciate that Judaism is a way of life and not just a field of academic study. The program is designed to encourage students to make significant steps in strengthening commitment to a Jewish way of life.

The curriculum at Merkos focuses on pivotal topics in practicing Judaism. It is expected that students will leave the program with an in depth knowledge of Kashrut, Shabbat, the Festivals and Prayer. Students are expected to cover the five books of the Torah with commentaries as well as enrich and deepen their appreciation of a Torah perspective through the lens of Chassidus.

Many women who attend the program go on to enrich their own families and the wider Jewish communities in which they live. Through their commitment and enthusiasm for a Torah lifestyle these women bring inspiration and positive influence to those with whom they interact.

About our Educators



At Merkos Women our educators recognise that a solid education and in turn value system can direct our students through all the twists, turns and perplexing currents of life.

The program is taught by a group of highly experienced and skillful educators. Both male and female teachers hold qualifications from recognised Jewish and tertiary institutions. Our educators strive to provide the student with thought provoking and high quality lessons. Sessions are informative and interactive and build a solid foundation in various aspects of Jewish knowledge and practice.

At Merkos Women we value the specific requirements of each student. Our educators take to heart the teaching of our sages that each individual is a world. Our staff, educators and mentors are available to counsel and assist students with both learning and personal issues.



Curriculum

Main focus of the program is to cover all the essential laws pertaining to practicing Judaism. Our objective is that by the end of the year students will have a clear understanding of the laws relating to Prayer, Shabbos, Kashrus and the Festivals.

Levels

The year long program is designed to meet the needs of students with previously limited exposure to Jewish learning as well as students with a solid background. Our classes are streamed to enable students to choose a program that best suits their learning needs.

Halachah

Term One

Laws of Shabbos Course One

Provides a step-by-step guide through the Halachic principles on which the laws of Shabbos are based, followed by a comprehensive study of the practical laws of Shabbos. Laws covered during this semester include honouring the Shabbos, asking a non-Jew to perform Melochos, preparation for Shabbos, Muktzah, Kiddush, Shabbos tefillos, Torah reading and Havdalla.

Term Two

Laws of Shabbos Course Two

Aims at identifying and explaining the thirty-nine Melochos (work prohibitions) of Shabbos. Each Melocho will be thoroughly explored from concept to practice and will include practical guidelines to avoid problematic situations.

Term Three

Laws of Prayer

In addition to exploring the origins and development of the mitzvah of Tefilah, this course offers students a solid understanding of the details and laws surrounding its practice. From Modeh Ani in the morning to Birchas Hamapil recited before retiring, each prayer is thoroughly elucidated during a step-by-step guide addressing the practical applications of Davening.

Term Four

Laws of Kashrus

The Kashrus course is divided into two components. The first identifies and explains the key concepts required to maintain a Kosher kitchen. Subsequently, students will cover all the relevant laws and customs which are based on these concepts, including egg bloodspots, checking for insects, meat and dairy separation, maris ayin, laws of pareve, spicy foods, bishul akum and pas akum as well as practical guidelines and advice on how to avoid problematic situations.

Chassidus-Jewish Mysticism

Exploring Our Faith

This course will canvas extensively a variety of fundamental topics of Jewish faith. Life's purpose, our own role in creation, Jews and non Jews, Does G-d really notice, Truth of Torah etc. Although this course is text based and will include readings from Maimonides, Zohar, Arizal and Chassidic works, a major focus will be on stimulating and creative thinking as well as practical and personal application. No prior knowledge or study necessary to enrol in this course.

Term One

The Principles of Faith of the Rambam

A thorough introduction to the basic tenets of the Jewish faith and belief system.

Term Two

The Portal of Unity and Faith

Understanding G-ds involvement within the world, resolving the paradox of G-d's transcendence and His eminence.

Term Three

From My Flesh I Perceive G-d

An analysis of the attributes of the soul and the insight these attributes provide into G-ds attributes

Term Four

Practice Makes Perfect

Taking many of the lessons of Chassidus and applying them personally to refine our character, we unlock our own inner potential and become better Jews. A course in Chassidic Avodah.

Nigleh

Advanced Talmudic and Halachic studies



In this course we will explore classical sugyos (Talmudic subject areas) in the Gemara and experience first-hand the exhilarating mental exploration that characterises traditional Talmud study.

Each student will have the opportunity to question, discuss, and argue, based on principle and precedent, as well as learn the language and thought process of the Torah.

The course contains sugyos of Gemara which pertain to legal/ethical discussions as well as those sections known as aggadata which discuss stories, incidents and broader life analysis. The course will also contain a strong Halachic slant by conducting each section with a reading from the code of Jewish law or a moral lesson for our day to day lives.

Living with the Times



Chumash (Biblical Studies) - Concepts and Skills

Chumash (Biblical Studies) is taught with the goal of covering all five books of the Torah - with Rashi commentary - in one year.

The sessions are conducted in small groups to encourage the student to gain proficiency in Biblical Hebrew and analytical skills for deciphering text.

Each student can expect to learn practical and insightful lessons from the Torah narrative of each week.

Chassidus Advanced

Term One

Ma'amarim: Rabbi Sholom Dovber The Fifth Chabad Rebbe Yom Tov Shel Rosh Hashana (1899-תרנ"ט) Yechayeinu Miyoyimayim (1899-תרנ"ט)

A two ma'amar series elucidating the dynamics of give-receive relationships. Exploring fascinating paradigms of the soul below and of the spiritual G-dhead above, this course highlights the superiority of the receiver over the giver and defines the unique role that each plays in forming a harmonious relationship.

Term Two

Ma'amar: Rabbi Yosef Yitzchok The Sixth Chabad Rebbe Vetaher Libeinu (1928-תרפ"ח)

This ma'amar presents a detailed analysis of one of the most elusive of the ten Sefiros Da'as. Identifying Da'as' relationship with the subconscious, its influence in the intellectual and emotional arenas of the soul and its ability to stimulate human will power, this course demonstrates how much we depend on this lucrative faculty and how much more there is to know about it.

Term Three

Ma'amarim: Rabbi Sholom Dovber The Rebbe RashaBesukos Teishvu (1910-עת"ק) Chassidim Ve'anshei Maseh (1910-עת"ר) Bayom Hashmini Atzeres (1910-עת"ר)

The Reshimah is one of the most enigmatic concepts in the teachings of Chassidus and Kabbalah. This course delves into a three ma'amar series defining the Reshimah as the source of limitation and elucidating its crucial role in the preliminary stages of creation and beyond.

Term Four

Ma'amarim: Rabbi Sholom Dovber The Rebbe Rashab. Panim Be'panim (1899-תרנ"ט) Tze'enuh Ur'enuh (1899-תרנ"ט)

A two ma'amar series, exploring the essential characteristics of the spiritual world of Keser. This course expounds on the ten hidden sefiros found in the world of Keser and the crucial role it plays as an intermediary bridging the gap between the infinite G-d and the finite universe.

Extra Curricular Activities



Fabrengens

Each Rosh Chodesh students are invited to participate in and contribute to informal gatherings to explore the highlights of the coming Jewish month. Through inspirational stories, song, dance and craft activities these gatherings are imbued with warmth, meaning and create a sense of closeness between students.



Going Deep

Twice yearly Merkos Women holds an intense program of Jewish learning. The program is a combination of textual learning, creative workshops and interactive sessions exploring various Jewish themes and contemporary issues. The program culminates with an uplifting and dynamic Shabbaton in which students experience a sense of community spirit and unity.

Specialised Programs

Short Courses

Within the program Merkos Women offers short interactive courses in contemporary as well as traditional Judaism. Ranging from “The Jewish Perspective on Mediation” to “The Power of the Feminine Soul” these courses encourage the student to participate in dynamic and thought provoking interactive sessions.

Private Study

For students requiring extra assistance with skills and/or concepts our staff can arrange for private study sessions with a tutor. During these sessions students will be able to accelerate their learning at a pace that they are comfortable with.

Accredited Study

Tertiary Recognition of Prior Learning

On completion of the Merkos one-year program students may apply to tertiary institutions including universities for recognition of prior learning (R.P.L.). RPL can be granted for relevant learning gained in a credentialed context other than a university, such as a course offered by a private educational institution. Students should determine from the relevant faculty what sources of prior learning the faculty is prepared to consider. The staff at Merkos Women will provide the students with the relevant information and materials to apply for Recognition of Prior Learning.

Evening Classes

Each week day evening between 8pm-9pm students are invited to participate in a variety of evening classes.

Sunday	- Kabbalah
Monday	- Chevrusa
Tuesday	- Chumash
Wednesday	- Jewish Calendar
Thursday	- Tanya

Daily Schedule

9am - 10am	The Ladder of Prayer
10am - 11am	Chassidus/ Ma'marim/Sichos
11am - 12pm	Living with the Times (Chumash)
12pm - 1pm	Halacha/Jewish Home

Daily Lunches

A healthy kosher lunch of assorted sandwiches, dips, salads and fruit is served daily. Students have access to kitchen facilities for tea, coffee and light refreshments.

Location

Merkos Women is located in the heart of East St Kilda in Melbourne Australia. Close to the Jewish centre with Yeshivah Shul and Carlise St around the corner, the location makes an ideal place for women seeking to live within the Melbourne Jewish community.

Term Dates for 2007

Term One

Monday 12 February - Friday 30 March

No class on Shushan Purim Monday 5 March
Pesach break Monday 2 April - Monday 16 April

Term Two

Monday 16 April - Friday 29 June

A mid term break between
Monday 21 May - Friday 25 May for Shavuot
Going Deep Monday 2 July- Friday 6 July
Break Monday 9 July- Friday 20 July

Term Three

Monday 23 July - Friday 7 September

Break for Tishrei
Monday 10 September - Sunday 7 October

Term Four

Monday 8th October - Friday 30th November

From February 2007 Merkos Women will operate as an accredited institution enabling eligible students to receive financial assistance with their tuition.

Testimonials

“I had an absolutely amazing time learning at Merkos. I've learned so much from our lecturers and from the girls I have studied with.”

Ella

“My time in Merkos has been a truly uplifting and inspiring experience. It has given me the strength to return to Brisbane with a stronger Jewish identity ... the classes are relevant and informative and allow students to participate freely. We had an amazing group of girls that helped to inspire each other.”

Miriam Chava

Tuition

Full program per semester	\$1000
Individual Courses per semester	\$300
Evening courses per semester	\$180



Contact Us

For more information regarding enrolment phone MerkosWomen on (03) 9527-2613 or (03) 9527-7010 or email info@merkos.com.au